

# Somatostatin Vasopressin : A Prospective Randomized Trial

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## Abstract

### Comparison of Somatostatin and Vasopressin in the Control of Acute Esophageal Variceal Hemorrhage : A Prospective Randomized Trial

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**Background/Aims:** Although endoscopic band ligation or injection sclerotherapy are the current standard therapies for bleeding esophageal varices, the best method for initial control is unclear. The aim of this prospective study was to compare the efficacy and toxicity of somatostatin and vasopressin in the management of esophageal variceal hemorrhage. **Methods:** From March, 1997 to September, 1998, 28 consecutive cirrhotic patients admitted to the Yonsei Medical Center because of active variceal bleeding were included in this trial. The patients were randomized to receive either somatostatin (15 patients) or vasopressin (13 patients) for 48 hours. **Results:** There were no significant differences between the two treatment groups in relation to Child's classification, amount of bleeding before randomization and units of blood transfused during therapy. Initial control of bleeding was achieved in 13 (86.7%) patients receiving somatostatin and in 10 (76.9%) of those treated with vasopressin. However, two patients in the somatostatin group and two in the vasopressin group bled again during treatment. Therefore complete control of bleeding during the 48 hours of therapy was achieved in 11 (73.4%) patients treated with somatostatin and in eight (61.5%) of those receiving vasopressin. Differences were observed in complications associated with each therapy. Vasopressin produced complications in four patients (chest pain in two, hypertension in one and hyponatremia-induced seizure in one) while somatostatin produced minor complication in one patient. **Conclusions:** This study suggests that somatostatin is efficacious in controlling acute hemorrhage from esophageal varices and has a lower risk of adverse effects than vasopressin. **.(Korean J Hepatol 2000;6:468-473)**

**Key Words :** Somatostatin, Vasopressin, Esophageal variceal hemorrhage



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20-50%		atostatin	vasopressin				
somatostatin		3-5					
somatostatin (Stilamin <sup>®</sup> , Serono co., Geneva, Switzerland)		250 μg bolus	48				
가		250 μg/hr					
Vasopressin		vasopressin (Vasopressin <sup>®</sup> , Hanlim pharm, Seoul, Korea)	48				
vasopressin	nitroglycerin	0.2 IU/min	48				
vasopressin		2	,	,			
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**Table 1.** Demographic data of the patients

	somatostatin (n=15)	vasopressin (n=13)	p value
Sex(M:F)	6.5:1	13:0	0.983
Past history			
Chronic alcoholism	7 (46.7%)	8 (66.7%)	0.299
GI bleeding	7 (46.7%)	7 (53.9%)	0.705
Massive hemorrhage	3 (20.0%)	2 (15.4%)	0.573
Hemoglobin (gm/dL)	8.6 ± 2.0	9.0 ± 1.8	0.596
Child's grade			0.363
A	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)	
B	6 (40.0%)	5 (38.5%)	
C	7 (46.7%)	8 (61.5%)	
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	3.4 ± 3.2	6.2 ± 7.1	0.310
Albumin (mg/dL)	2.8 ± 0.6	4.2 ± 5.4	0.376
Prothrombin time (sec)	16.1 ± 5.2	19.9 ± 4.9	0.074

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**Table 2.** Results of somatostatin and vasopressin treatment in controlling variceal hemorrhage

	somatostatin (n=15)	vasopressin (n=13)	p value
Endoscopy time from entry (hr)	26.7 ± 45.2	20.9 ± 27.8	0.691
Transfusion requirement (F/P/C)	5.9 ± 4.3	6.0 ± 5.3	0.942
Early success	13 (86.7%)	10 (76.9%)	0.502
Rebleeding	2 (13.3%)	2 (15.4%)	0.877
Active intervention	1 (6.7%)	2 (15.4%)	0.457
Mortality	3 (20.0%)	0 (0%)	0.088
Admission days	15.0 ± 5.9	14.2 ± 4.4	0.674

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**Table 3.** Complications during therapy

	No. of patients (%)	
	somatostatin (n=15)	vasopressin (n=13)
Headache	1 (6.7%)	0 (0%)
Chest pain	0 (0%)	2 (15.4%)
Hypertension	0 (0%)	1 (7.7%)
Seizure	0 (0%)	1 (7.7%)
Total	1 (6.7%)	4 (30.8%)

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